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H. B. KINGGOLD, P. M.

U. S. GRANT.

OUR CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT

Religious Notice!

The Rt. Rev. J. P. B. Wilmer, D. C.

will visit Chenoyville, on Thursday, the 22d, inst., for Confirmation.

He will return thence to Alexandria, and on Saturday, (St. Matthias Day) the 24th, will admit Mr. A. N. Ogden, Jr., to Holy Orders, in St. James Church.

On Sunday, (3d Sunday in Lent), the 25th, he will preach and celebrate the Apostolic Rite of Confirmation.

The community will be welcomed to all these unusually interesting religious Services.

Backenstose's Cosmopolite Circus, Museum and Menagerie, the big

thrusting show is advertised to be at Alexandria Tuesday Feb. 20th. Speaking of this Show the Helena Clarion

Backenstose's Circus, Menagerie and Museum exhibited at this place last Thursday week, and had a full house both day and night. It was concluded by all to be the best and most accomplished Company that ever visited here. The renowned Southern Equestrian, Harry Jack Lawson, is chief clown, and his appearance in the ring is repeated with joy. The different roles are all represented by first class artists. Mr. Whettony, Mr. Corvelli, Mrs. Warner, Madam Whettony are masters in their professions. Miss Jones, the Queen of the Air, in her beautiful balancing on the trapeze, presents a fairy-like scene of beauty and holds the audience in breathless amazement. But the most wonderful feat of the Circus were performed on the double trapeze by Millie Gracie, (the Iron Jaws) and Harry Clark. We have never seen anything to equal their extraordinary performances. Gracie suspended by her feet in mid-air, head downwards, and holding her partner, (weighing one hundred and sixty pounds) by her feet alone, presents a wonderful feat of strength and agility, and gives her the appropriate name of "Iron Jaws." They would be the great attractions in any show.

Altogether, Dr. Backenstose has a superior company, and he enforces strict discipline, tolerating no profanity, intemperance, late hours, or any irregular habits among his people, and thus the morals of his show are, perhaps, the best of any traveling company in the country.

The River at this point is still

TRACKED DOWN.

We suppose that many of our readers are aware of the fact, that there is at this, or was very lately, another Congressional Committee investigation going on in New York, the Northern Head Centre of corruption, as New Orleans has been designated the Southern one. This committee we refer to is a senatorial one, and was raised to investigate abuses and corruptions charged to prevail in the administration of affairs, in the Custom House of that city, or smooth them over as turned out to be the most expedient and advisable to the committee composed of course of a majority of members friendly to the administration.

The Spirit of the Times, or American Gentlemen's Newspaper, is not a publication generally considered as a political one, but that the editor, George Wilkes, Esq., wield a trenchant pen in political, as well as sporting matters, no one who reads an editorial under the above heading, of the 27th ult., will be disposed to deny, We copy the opening paragraph:

We have not chosen to devote much time to the personal operations of the President and his military staff, in the way of money-making, feeling satisfied that the mere fact of all of them having grown very rich out of three years of office, would have more effect upon the public mind, than any amount of unfavorable details. There is one case, however, now in course of development, which no journal not under vassalage to the administration can afford to overlook, without a distinct abandonment of public duty—a case which is sharply challenging the attention of the country, and which, from present appearances, is likely to exercise a decisive influence over the next Presidential campaign. We allude, of course, to the Custom House investigation, now pending before a Senatorial committee, holding its sessions in this city.

Three years is a short period of time for public officers, under limited salaries, to spring from comparative poverty to wealth. Yet such is the case with General Porter, General Babcock, and General Dent, the favored members of the President's military staff; and such is most notably the case with General Grant himself. Everything which these military gentlemen touch seems to turn to profit. They have houses and lands, horses and cattle, costly country residences, and fat bank accounts; at least this is the case with General Horace Porter; while the President has so spread with increase since the day of his inauguration, that his present property has been estimated at nearly a million of dollars. One item of this is a stock farm near St. Louis valued at two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which, being added to his costly gift residences and presumed interest in certain speculations, such as the Seneca Sandstone Company, goes far to establish the above as a not extravagant estimation. We do not distinctly charge that any of this property has been corruptly acquired by the President, but the mode of its acquisition establishes a presumption that he is very fond of money, and that he is likewise very fond of making money for his military pets. These presumptions are pertinent to the case before us, and they are admissible, because they furnish an adequate motive for some very strange performances. They the pertinent, moreover, because they show that General Grant (in having acquired a deal of this property through gifts and much of it in exchange for "fines") has a greed for money which largely overtops his sense of delicacy, and leads him, we fear, to regard many of the deprecations of his favorites as lawful perquisites, rather than criminal exactions. The very fact of his establishing a costly military staff, in connection with the civil office of President of the United States, is a proof how admirably he reasons on some awkward subjects.

It appears from the testimony already taken by the Senatorial Committee, that the military staff of General Grant had discovered, even previous to his inauguration, that there was a source of vast profit attached to the New York Custom House, in the shape of the carting and storing of commercial packages, between incoming ships and warehouses chosen for the temporary deposit of such packages. Through the monopoly of this cartage, and a heavy additional charge upon every package, large and small, for warehousing, this exaction upon the mercantile community, and indirectly upon the public as consumers, had been pushed to the enormous measure of one hundred thousand dollars annually. This rich piece of plunder "the staff" determined to appropriate; but not being able to work it themselves, in consequence of their direct dependence upon General Grant, they took into their confidence a former member of the General's military family, in the person of George K. Leet, an officer in the army, who was drawing from the government a salary of \$3,000 a year.

The writer then goes on to prove that Leet was furnished by the President, with a letter to Mr. Grinnell, afterwards appointed the collector of the port of New York, bespeaking for Leet whatever assistance he (Grinnell) could give him. The testimony shows that the young officer, gets this valuable letter, not only from the President's

own hands, but was armed with the additional and most singular advantage, of being allowed to privately inform Grinnell, that it was his the President's intention, to make him, Mr. G. collector of New York, thus plainly intimating, that to secure that office, Mr. Grinnell must grant to the go between, whatever he demanded. Leet demanded the "General Order Business," as the cartage and warehousing monopoly was designated, but he was only permitted to have half of it, the other half being kept to silence other clamorous demands. This division, however, did not suit the White House party, so the collector was given to understand, that unless the whole of the General Order Business, was given entirely up to Leet & Co., he, Grinnell, would be removed, which thing in fact, speedily happened on his refusal, and Mr. Thomas Murphy, was appointed, a gentleman who had been one of a number to give President Grant that celebrated cottage at Long Branch. We no doubt would have given our readers a better idea of the matter by publishing the editorial entire, but it was too lengthy for our column, so we give the conclusion:

Under Mr. Murphy, who had the President's entire confidence, Leet & Co., feeling themselves relieved from all restrictions, again increased their rates of charge, until their exaction became so unbearable, that several of the sufferers protested against them to the Secretary of the Treasury, while Mr. A. T. Stewart complained of the outrage to the President himself. It is in proof, that the Secretary, who is the legal head of the Customs Department of the government, endeavored to interfere and rectify the evil. He wrote to the Collector, advising that the monopoly of Leet & Co., be broken up, and the business remitted to its old channel; but Mr. Murphy insisted there should be no charge and from this point, all that we can see in a straight line is, that Mr. Boutwell suddenly desisted from his good intentions, as if he had been unexpectedly thwarted by some power superior to his own. It is also in proof, indeed it is testified to by Mr. A. T. Stewart himself, that he twice informed the President of the outrageous character of the General Order Business, advising that it be corrected; but he adds that the President gave no heed to his advice. Disgusted and discouraged at these ineffectual efforts to escape the plunderers who were thus powerfully protected, some of our importers were absolutely driven to have their merchandise brought in through the ports of Philadelphia and Boston, preferring to incur the cost of running it over the railroad to New York, rather than to have it undergo a half mile of Leet & Co's cartage and a few hours' warehousing at their rate of imposition. This rate, the testimony shows to have been three times as much as would have been levied by any other bonded warehouse in the city.

We have now acquired a pretty clear idea of the tempting piece of plunder upon which General Grant's military staff had fixed their eyes previous to his inauguration; and we have seen how skillfully the robbers pushed themselves into its possession. Everything was done in true military style (by regular approaches), and when anything threatened their lines, some unseen and mysterious power would peremptorily flank the disturbing influence, and restore them to a full immunity again.

Now, what does all this mean? We are stating facts positive, absolute. Facts, which have been proven upon the stand, and which will never be denied. Here we behold a handful of military bandits, who have seized, as it were, a narrow pass through which the rich commerce of an imperial city must deile. They re-enact in this peaceful age the part of the feudal brigands of the Rhine, and in addition to the crime of plundering our thrifty traders, strike fatally at the commercial increase of our city. This is a great crime, especially against New York; and it behooves all of us to see that it be duly probed and punished.

The question to which we must prepare to address our minds are, Who are the parties to this frightful scheme of robbery? Who are direct in interest, and who accessories? Besides, what are the motives of those who assume to have no interest, but who permit these felonious deprecations to be directed at the commerce of a nation? We do not wish to force conclusions against any one, either high or low, who seems to be implicated in this matter; but we cannot lose sight of the fact, that very citizen, who is to think this matter through, has a right to discharge all sense of party interest from his reflections, and deliberate as if dealing for himself. If the superior crime which lurks through this clouded testimony escape punishment through the corrupt force of party exaltation, the moral sense of our entire community is hopelessly debased, and every man must shudder at the obvious future of the country.

We conjure every citizen, therefore, who brings himself to the examination of this case, to direct his mind of party consideration of every kind what ever, in order that he may analyze it as if he were dealing for his country, his wife and children, and himself.

We have but one thing more to urge, and that is, that every reader of the details of the investigation keep constantly in view the leading facts, that all the parties involved by the

evidence were poor three years ago, but now are rich. Furthermore, that the President has long kept Leet in possession of his plunder, in face of the protests of the importers, in defiance of the wishes of his Secretary of the Treasury, and against the advice and complaints of Mr. A. T. Stewart of this city. Finally, that he saw General Porter and Babcock grow rich, along with Leet, without any legitimate reason for it, and without ever inquiring how. We are thus brought logically to the point from which we started, and the proofs between, should give us the true philosophy and real complexion of the case.

PELICAN FEATHERS.

The negroes in Claiborne do not seem to like towns with classic names. Two of them were arrested in Houma charged with an attempt to burn up the town—"Illiad" and all—one night last week.

The Times claims that Shreveport is now one of the most orderly cities in the Union, and notes the absence from the streets of drunken, turbulent men and the rarity of death by violence. In past years, owing to special and peculiar influences, Shreveport had more than its share of classes referred to.

The Times thinks Monday, the 29th ult., as cold as the cold snap in '64, when Gen. Smith gathered ice from Jones' Bayou "ostensibly for the use of the sick in hospitals," but which is thought to have improved the jollity of the officers of the General's staff. The ice was thick enough for skating, a sport never before witnessed there.

The Southwestern reports the sudden death of Mr. Brown, a railroad contractor, a native of Iowa, which happened on the railroad. He entered the car at Longview, and in a few minutes fell, heavily, forward dead. An overdose of chloroform was the cause—another admonition against the use of that insidious and dangerous chemical.

There is now lying in the lower bay a ship of about 850 tons, from Antwerp. She will take a cargo of live oak hence to San Francisco. She draws about 22 feet water. The ship Mount Royal, of 1200 tons, cleared from Calais, France, on the 17th December last, (for this port, having on board about 1400 tons of machinery, castings, etc., for the Calaisien Sulphur Mining Company, and is now expected daily. The name of the vessel from Antwerp is Harz. A gentleman told me yesterday that he had two vessels to load there, which would carry 1300 heads of sugar.

The same writer notices the sale of the Oxford Plantation for \$5,000, in order to effect a partition among the heirs.

The Coushatta (Red River) Citizen, of the 27 ult., says: "Thursday morning there was a pretty heavy snow at this port, and as we go to press Mother Earth continues to wear her white mantle."

The Monroe Intelligencer, of Jan. 31st, says:

"The weather has been very cold since our last. On Thursday morning it began to snow, and continued snowing all day, and at night the depth of the snow was about two inches. On Saturday it began to thaw, and up to going to press the snow has not entirely melted. The 'oldest inhabitant' says that it was one of the coldest spells ever experienced here."

The Natchitoches Times notes a project for establishing a small cotton factory in Natchitoches, not so much as a speculation as for giving work to poor people who need it.

The Planters' Banner, of January 31, describes the effects of the late storm in the Attakapas:

Our parish was visited on last Wednesday night and Thursday by the severest storm of sleet and rain that has been experienced for years. The wind was from the north all day Wednesday until about 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when it commenced sleeting and continued throughout the greater part of the night. On Thursday morning we had both rain and sleet, which continued through the day, and at nightfall the ground was covered with ice to the depth of one or two inches. The trees were bending under loads of ice, and in many instances were broken down. The storm was particularly severe on the cattle in our prairie, hundreds of them being killed in all directions. It will long be remembered by our citizens, but more particularly by the stock men.

It has been thought by some of our citizens that the cold weather had injured the seed case, but we are glad to be able to state that such is not the case, as we are informed by the planters.

We notice that some of the orange trees in exposed places were injured by the late cold weather. We hope this injury to the trees was not general, as the orange crop of Bayou Teche is beginning to be valuable.

The Banner notes that freights are heavy up and down the bayou, and regards the fact as evidence of increasing prosperity. "Many strangers," says the Banner, "have come to Iberia parish in search of homes during the last month. The greater portion of these people have but a small capital, and desire rather to rent land, or work on shares, than to buy. We hope they will all succeed in getting homes, for they are just the kind of people we need here."

Coal is selling at New Iberia of \$3 a barrel.

BACKENSTOSE'S COSMOPOLITE CIRCUS



AND MENAGERIE IS COMING!

And Will Exhibit at Alexandria Tuesday, Feb. 20th 1872.

Dr. E. BACKENSTOSE, CAPT. G. W. THOMPSON.

Managing Directors.

The distinguished features of the Cosmopolitan are that it is the Largest Circus, has the rarest and most costly collection of living Wild Animals, and that the Museum contains more Human Curiosities than has ever been exhibited in the Southern States. In the Circus Department will be found the following Artists, known by all show going people to be the Brightest Shining Stars in the Profession:



Mrs. CHARLES WARNER, (formerly Mrs. Dan Rice), the Queen of the Menage.

M. LLE GRACIE, the Champion Female Gymnast.

LA BELLE FLORA, the Infant Wonder.

M. LLE LOSE, the Champion Equilibrist.

CHARLES COVELL, the Daring Rider, whose acts had no imitation.

THOMAS CLIFFORD, the Champion Leaper of the World.

HARRY EMMET, in his Great Skill Act.

NUT AND HINDES, in their Champion brother acts on the Trapeze.

JACK LAWTON, the Southern Favorite.

HARRY CLARK, M. WHETTONY, CHARLES SPEEGER, HARRY ADAMS, DICK WESTERN, Gymnast and Tumbler, who have no equal in America.

CHARLES ROYCE, the American Grinnell.

Dr. E. BACKENSTOSE, Trainer and Interlocutor with his Horses and Menage.



IN THE MENAGERIE Will be found the following Animals:

- Zebus, Givits, Hides Sacred Cattle, Spring Hides Hyenas, Gazelles, Oryxes, Mexican Lions, French Leopards, Brown, Black and Gray Monkeys.

Also Professor Ferris Corsey's

TROPICAL BIRD SHOW,

Embracing nearly all the Birds of Brilliant Plumage known to man.

THE MUSEUM DEPARTMENT,

Embracing Human Curiosities such as the Lilliputian Queen, Admiral Dot, the Circassian Beauty, and many other rare treasures of nature.

Remember The Day and Date,

Two separate Shows for one Price. One ticket Admits to both, FOR FULL PARTICULARS SEE SMALL BILLS.

Admission \$1.00. Children 50.

Dr. E. BACKENSTOSE, ASOFT.